



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: William Hatchett**

**PONTIAC ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON  
ON TAX EVASION CHARGES**

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William Hatchett, an attorney with the law firm of Hatchett, DeWalt & Hatchett in Pontiac, Michigan, was sentenced today to 15 months in prison after pleading guilty earlier this year to attempting to evade and defeat the payment of his taxes, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Acting Special Agent in Charge Sandi Carter, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

“The willful evasion of significant tax liabilities can clearly lead to conviction and prison. When the defendant is an attorney, as in this case, the government will pay heightened attention to this conduct – it is a glaring violation of the position of

responsibility and trust," United States Attorney Murphy said.

Hatchett entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Patrick J. Duggan as the result of a December 15, 2005 information. According to court records, from 1989 through 1996, Hatchett admitted that he had an outstanding federal tax liability, but never made payment on approximately \$382,000 in federal income and self-employment taxes due and owing. He willfully tried to evade these payments by using cash and cashier's checks to impede the ability of the IRS to collect on his federal tax liabilities. Hatchett also used another person's American Express Cards for his personal expenses and had no bank accounts in his name. Hatchett used the Hatchett, DeWalt & Hatchett firm checking account to finance his personal expenses, which including tuition payments for his children's education.

Carter said, "The law requires that each of us is responsible for filing a tax return when required, and for determining and paying the correct amount of tax. The efforts of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division are directed at taxpayers who willfully and intentionally violate this known legal duty."

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karl Overman.